

# Order of Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 14, 2025

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**Gathering and Welcome** *There is a Balm in Gilead*

**Prelude** *Dwelling in Beulah Land* – arr.  
Melody Bober Jessye Whitis, pianist



**\*Call to worship** (based on Luke 15:1-10)

Quiet your mind, still your restlessness.  
Come before God.

**Like a bird that lights on a branch,  
we come to the pause of God.**

Warm your heart, stir up your spirit.  
Come before God.

**Like flame dancing on a candle's wick,  
we come to the dance of God.**

Open your hands, meet the eyes of your neighbors.  
Come before God.

**Like rustling leaves blowing in autumn wind,  
bright with color, deep when gathered,  
we fall into the presence of God.**

**\*Hymn** *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken, like the first morning.  
Geese have awoken, distant but heard.  
Praise for the winging, praise for the morning,  
Praise for life springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet is the autumn, golden before us  
As the bright leaves fall, from the dark trees.  
Praise for the beauty of the rich harvest,  
Praise for God's whispers on the cool breeze.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the evening.  
Dawn sky and sunset — palette of play.  
Praise with our rising, praise with our resting;  
God's hope and blessing for every day

**\*Call to confession** (based on 1 Timothy 1:15)

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. With confidence born out of faith in Christ's power to save and deliver us, let us confess our sin.

**\*Prayer of confession** (based on Psalm 51:1-10)

**God of loving kindness, have mercy on us. According to your multitude of tender mercies, blot out our transgressions, thoroughly wash us from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.**

**We know our transgressions, our sin, our evil done against you as we distort your love and corrupt your creation. From the moment of our conception we have worked to separate ourselves from your love.**

**You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom, purge and clean our hearts, put your Spirit anew within us. Let us hear joy and gladness so that our ragged bones might rejoice with you. [Silence is kept]**

**\*Assurance of pardon** (based on 1 Timothy 1:14,16)

Hear the good news:

With utmost patience, Christ offers mercy so that we may thrive in eternal life.

In Christ's name, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

May the grace of our Lord overflow for you with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

**Choral Anthem** *Bless the Lord, O My Soul* by Handel/Hopson

Jessye Whitis, Music Director, pianist

**Prayer for illumination** (based on Luke 15:1-10 and Psalm 51:10)

Lord who welcomes sinners, send your Spirit to sit with us as we hear your Word proclaimed. Find us where we are lost, create in us clean hearts, and help us to see the joy of your mercy. Amen.

**Scripture readings** Jeremiah 4: 11 – 12, 22 – 28; Luke 15: 1 - 10

**Sermon** *The Joy of the Lord Is Our Strength* Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

**\*Affirmation of faith – Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy***

**Call for the offering (based on Exodus 32:7-14)**

God has offered us our lives and bestowed us with mercy,  
grace, and love. Let us now respond to God's offering to us  
by returning to God in part what is God's in whole.

**Offertory *For the Beauty of the Earth* – arr. Mark Hayes**

Jessye Whitis, pianist

**\*Doxology # 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow***

**Prayer of dedication** (based on Luke 15:1-10)

We give because we have been given so much. Lord, take these gifts and use them to faithfully transform others. Allow your work to be continued in the world where it is most needed. Amen.

**Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

Holy One who creates, liberates and loves, we are your creation. You have set us free, and you have sought us out with love.

Trusting in your character, hoping in your memory, and believing in the movement of your Spirit, we ask that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Open your ears to your creation, to your people, to your children, who you have called, who you have rescued, who you love and who now bow before you and open the contents of our hearts to you in prayer.

God, who seeks us, who offers us grace, and who celebrates our presence, hear us as we join together in prayer using the words Jesus taught his disciples, "**Our Father...**"

**\*Hymn of Sending # 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout***

**Charge and benediction**

Go out with joy to love God, love yourself, and love your neighbor. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

**Postlude** *When We All Get to Heaven*

Jessye Whitis, pianist

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Liturgy written by Walter Canter